

She never cared much for us using our life lessons as excuses. Rather, she pushed us to use our experiences to become better and to keep moving on.

Like all moms, she was an encourager. As the oldest child, she looked to me to set the example for my brothers and sisters. She wasn't sympathetic when things weren't going my way.

The world is full of opportunities, she would say. The challenge was always: go to school, make good grades, work hard, treat people with respect, and see where life takes you. The government will never make you wealthy, she said. You will have to do that on your own, she would always tell me.

My mom became a nurse and spent long hours taking care of the elderly in nursing homes. Many of my visits with my mom over the years were in the skilled nursing facilities as she would take a break from the grueling work schedule that she had that demanded so much of her.

After the long years of losing a child, raising five children, being a grandmother of countless grandchildren, and the arduous work of being a nurse, my mom's body had withered away.

Her heart had tired, and her eyes could no longer see. The last 4 years have been especially hard for me to watch her health rapidly decline.

Last Monday, my mom took her last breath on this earthly world. We all know she is in Heaven looking down upon us with Kimberly by her side. Her heart is strong, and her eyes are new.

My mom would have never wanted me to stay home and not do my job last week. She was with me all week as the world watched our great Nation debate the future of our Republic.

I especially thank the nurses and doctors who cared for my mother in her last years, months, and days. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

I thank my congressional colleagues for their kind words, sincere thoughts, and prayers over the last week.

I was truly moved by the outpouring of love from both Republicans and Democrats over the past week. I thank Democratic Leader JEFFRIES, Caucus Chair AGUILAR, and so many of my Democratic colleagues for setting politics aside and offering quiet condolences.

To all of my Republican colleagues, I simply want to say thank you. From Leader SCALISE, who contacted me immediately upon hearing the news, to the members of our freshman class, thank you all.

Finally, I thank my loving wife, Tammy, and my children, Ashtyn, Kelby, and Kaden, for their warmth and love during these difficult times.

To my mom in Heaven above, I simply want to say, I love you, and I miss you.

RECOGNIZING THE PELLA MARCHING DUTCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pella Marching Dutch of Pella High School, who recently participated in the Rose Bowl Parade.

Each year, only 21 bands across the world receive an invitation to play in the parade. The Pella Marching Dutch have joined the ranks as one of the greatest marching bands of our time.

This is not the first time the Pella Marching Dutch have received this high honor, having appeared in the parade in 1988 and 2002. I was fortunate enough to watch the Marching Dutch on Monday, and I was amazed by the talent that was demonstrated by the students at Pella High School.

I congratulate the Pella Marching Dutch again on representing Iowa in the Rose Parade, and I look forward to watching their future performances.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

GO DAWGS

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, how 'bout them Dawgs?

It is an honor this morning to rise and deliver my first speech on the floor of the people's House, and what a special occasion it is.

After last night's resounding victory, it is clear that the Georgia Bulldogs haven't gotten tired of winning.

I congratulate the University of Georgia, especially the players, who left it all on the field during practice and the games and earned another championship last night.

Because of their passion and talent, the number one State for business is now the number one State for college football for the second year in a row.

As the Representative for Georgia's 10th District, the proud home of the University of Georgia, I could not be prouder of the team or happier for our State because the Dawgs are on top of the SEC and all of college football once again.

Go Dawgs.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it was difficult to yield—I had to pause a little bit, as a TCU Horned Frog—to my colleague, but in the spirit of camaraderie, I did so.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protecting America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve from China Act, which will work to unleash American energy dominance.

In an election-year gimmick, President Biden raided oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, depleting it to its lowest level in decades and allowing it to be sold to a company affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party.

Selling off American oil to the Chinese Communist Party for its own strategic

use poses a direct threat to our national security. The petroleum reserve is our insurance card. It is to be used to protect our great country during national emergencies or weather events. Depleting it is dangerous, and restocking it at higher prices is foolish.

Let's restore some sanity here. Protect America and end the foolish practice of sending oil to our enemies that would hate us for free.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass this important legislation this week to stop this reckless, America-last practice from happening again.

CONGRATULATING THE ALLEGHANY HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Alleghany High School girls' cross-country team for winning their Class 2 State championship. This victory marks the first-ever Alleghany High School girls' team to win a State title.

By training hard, staying motivated, and keeping the pressure on, the Mountaineers left it all on the track, tallying a total of 65 points.

These talented athletes include Kiera Lowman, Gracie Barron, Macyn Cash, Meredith Minter, Lucy Nicely, Alivia Hoover, and Bryce Leitch.

Freshman Kiera Lowman blazed to the finish line with an impressive time of 18 minutes and 59 seconds, becoming the first-ever freshman to win the individual State title.

Two other top-10 finishes from Alleghany High School were Gracie Barron and Macyn Cash.

All of these young ladies are a true testament that with hard work and determination, you can achieve your dreams.

Congratulations again to the Mountaineers. Virginia's Sixth Congressional District is incredibly proud of your accomplishment.

SECURING OUR BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, we have, right now, a situation where the President is visiting the border.

In my line of work, as a young lieutenant, I flew along the border and knew that there was a problem in the early 1990s. As a matter of fact, in the mid-1990s, as a forward air controller, we had to stop operations at nighttime as vans bouncing around in the middle of our operations made us cease fire so we could chase illegal immigrants out of our firing ranges. Then, as an emergency medicine doctor, I treated patients who came here illegally.

Most people don't realize the consequence of our actions, of our poor border security, and what it has done. We understand the numbers. We understand the millions that are coming across the border, 4 million since we have had a new President, but not the downwind consequences when you provide laws that encourage bad behavior and punish good behavior.

One of the things that most people don't realize is that when you go to the emergency room and are waiting in line behind a lot of people who came here illegally, you are not only waiting in line behind them but you are also paying for their bills. Many people are coming across the border to receive treatment for their chronic illnesses that cost millions of dollars per year, and those are several patients per hospital. We are talking about billions, even tens of billions of dollars, spent on people who come here illegally. It comes from taxpayer money, both out of your pocket and through your taxation, which adds to our debt, which, of course, is going to be paid for by our children.

To make it worse, we punish those people who come here the right way. In my district, we have a huge immigrant population, people who come here from all over the world, whether it be India, Europe, South America, and they have to wait in line with a glutted immigration policy that makes it very difficult for them to follow the law. Meanwhile, we reward those people who break the law.

I think we need to change our laws. I think we need to make it more streamlined for people who follow the law, who are good citizens, who paid their taxes, who have jobs, who create jobs, and make it more difficult for people who break laws.

I think, right now, when you talk about the overwhelming number of people coming across the border, and when you have the President go down there and have the borders cleaned up so he can view something that doesn't really exist, which is a problem where we don't protect our sovereign border, which is one of the President's main responsibilities; where you have people's property violated; where you have people's rights violated; where you have crimes.

Of course, as an emergency medicine physician, this last year I lost four patients who came in from fentanyl overdoses that I was not able to revive. Now, almost every single night, I do revive somebody, so it is something I literally witness almost every single shift, usually several times per shift.

The opioid crisis is real, and it is something that is killing over 100,000 Americans per year. Every year, we are setting a new record, and we have done nothing of consequence to really stem that tide.

I think it is with the greatest earnest appeal to my fellow Republicans and Democrats that we watch after our own house. It is okay to be compassionate. It is okay to reach out and help people, but we have to do it the right way.

Most importantly, we have to make laws that encourage good behavior, that people coming here are rewarded for following the laws. They are rewarded with citizenship when they do the right thing, and we are punishing people who come here with ill intent.

Finally, I would like to point out that we are experiencing diseases here

in America we haven't seen in decades. Where is it coming from? It is because we don't have good screening procedures.

It used to be, to come to America, you couldn't even come here if you had glaucoma. Now you can come here with every kind of disease process there is, and we will never even know that you are even here.

If you look at the terrorists coming across the border—we know that we have at least nine terrorists we have caught in the last month, but we don't know how many got away. It is because we have poor border security.

So, it is not just for one thing; it is for many things that we need to secure our border, make sure that we are a sovereign Nation, and follow the law.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MARK BUTLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mark Butler and his service to the State of Georgia as our Commissioner of Labor.

Mark has dedicated his entire life to serving the great State of Georgia. He served in the Georgia State House of Representatives for 8 years, where he had the distinct honor of being my suitemate.

In January 2011, Mark became Georgia's ninth Commissioner of Labor, and the first Republican to head the department.

Since Mark's first election, he has implemented many programs designed to improve the agency's relationships with employers, jobseekers, and Georgia's future workforce.

In 2013, he formed the Business Service Unit. This program was designed to foster mutually beneficial relationships with Georgia's employers and economic developers.

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In 2014, he developed the Labor Department's newest program, Customized Recruitment. This program bridges the gap between employers and job seekers.

A committed public servant, statesman, and friend, I thank Mark for his leadership and his hard work.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING JON BURNS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my friend, Jon Burns, for becoming the new Speaker of the Georgia State House of Representatives.

Jon has dedicated his entire life to serving the great State of Georgia. He was elected to the Georgia State House in 2004. During his first session in the Georgia State House, Jon and I were suitemates. Since then, I have enjoyed getting to know Jon and his family and he has become a dear friend.

In 2015, Jon was chosen to serve as the Georgia House majority leader and would eventually be elected as the 74th

Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives. During his time in the State legislature, Jon has worked to bring environmentally balanced economic development, world-class healthcare, quality education, and improved education to Georgia.

There is no one more deserving of the speakership than Jon Burns. I look forward to seeing all that he can accomplish and wish him a long and successful tenure.

On behalf of myself and the First District of Georgia, I thank him for all he does.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Georgia's Archway Partnership on their recent award, the C. Peter Magrath Award for Community Engagement.

This award is the highest award for public service bestowed by the national Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. The University of Georgia's Archway Partnership is nationally recognized for the resources and expertise it provides to rural communities.

Since its founding in 2005, the program's partnership has attracted hundreds of faculty and over 1,500 students to help Georgia communities secure more economic development opportunities. Programs like these are critical to ensuring that all areas of the State, rural and urban, can grow and take advantage of their unique situations.

They also give students the opportunity to face real-world problems. From economic development to preventative healthcare to broadening access and more, this partnership works to solve the most pressing issues of our time.

Additionally, this award comes with a \$20,000 prize, which will be used to broaden the scope of what the partnership can take on.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jere Morehead on his leadership at the university and in this program. I am proud of the work that the faculty and students at my alma mater have done to build up the rural communities around our State.

On behalf of the entire First District of Georgia, I thank them for their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THIAGO ALMADA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thiago Almada as the first Major League Soccer player to win the World Cup.

Thiago was on the Argentinean team that won a thrilling 4-2 penalty shootout over France to win the World Cup. Argentina's win gave Lionel Messi his first World Cup trophy, which has eluded his storybook career.

When he is not representing Argentina, Thiago plays for Georgia's Atlanta United. During the 2022 season, Thiago started 25 of 29 games and scored six goals. He also had 12 assists and 77 on-target scoring attempts. In